

Independent Insurance Agents (MWAIA), and her colleagues across the country.

Bebe was elected to IIABA's Executive Committee in October 1998 and was honored by her peers when they named her President-elect last fall in New Orleans.

Bebe's service to her peers began with her involvement with the Metropolitan Washington Association. She served as MWAIA's president and as the organization's representative to IIABA's National Board of State Directors. In recognition of her outstanding service, MWAIA named her its 1991 Agent of the Year.

In addition to her position on the IIABA Executive Committee, Bebe also serves as a member of the Association's Large Agents & Brokers Roundtable.

Her other industry volunteer work includes service as a member of the D.C. Society of CPCU's Board of Directors and the Standard & Poor's Agent Advisory Council, and chairman of the CNA Branch PACER Agent Panel and the Southern Agents Conference.

Among Bebe's community involvement is service as a member of Howard University's Scholarship Committee.

I am proud of Bebe's professional and community service accomplishments and know she will serve her fellow agents with distinction and strong leadership to further the worthy and noble cause of independent insurance agents and brokers. I bid her a successful year as president of the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America. I wish her all the best as IIABA President. Congratulations Bebe!

THE NATIONAL MINORITY MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES ACT

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 5, 2003

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be joined by my colleague, JOHN CONYERS, Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Committee, to introduce The National Minority Media Opportunities Act. And I want to thank Senator KENNEDY for his leadership on this issue and for introducing the companion bill in the Senate.

This bill would require the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to hold public hearings, with notice and opportunity to comment, before approving the transfer of a license for a station serving a minority-language audience. It also requires the FCC to report to Congress on issues involving the concentration of ownership and control of minority-language broadcast media and the effects of excessive concentration on competition and diversity in these minority-language markets.

The need for this bill has become crystal clear as Chairman Powell continues to try to ram through a huge Spanish-language media merger between Univision and HBC, with no opportunity for public input, with no public deliberation, and with no regard for the impact this mega-merger will have on Hispanic consumers or the Spanish-language media market.

The Third Circuit Court of Appeals has stayed the FCC's new Media Ownership rules,

which Chairman Powell has espoused as providing more protection for minority consumers. So why is it that he is now ramming through a decision on the Univision/HBC merger under the old rules, with no public hearings, and without even a public vote? The only obvious explanation seems to lie in an analysis of political contributions filed with the Federal Election Commission (FEC). Otherwise, there is simply no reason to rush this controversial merger through without adequate public review and without a public vote by the FCC.

The Congress has spoken on the Media Ownership rules, voting to repeal portions of the rule. And now the Congress has spoken on the process by which this ill-advised merger is being considered.

Chairman Powell and the Republican Commissioners owe us some explanations. They owe Congress an explanation of why they have disregarded our requests for openness and public accountability in their decision-making process. They owe the Hispanic community an explanation of why they insist on approving a mega-merger that could have serious consequences for the diversity of information they receive. And they owe the general public an explanation of why they have made the decisions they have made, without any opportunity for meaningful public input and without even a public vote on the issue.

Chairman Powell, you owe it to the Hispanic community to protect our interests. If you're not going to do that, then—at the very least—you owe us an explanation of why you've deserted us.

IN MEMORY OF MR. PAUL SHEPARD

HON. MARY BONO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 5, 2003

Mrs. BONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of a beloved member of the Palm Springs community and a dear friend, Mr. Paul Shepard.

This tragic, untimely and unexpected loss will impact not only those who knew and loved Paul, but also, the entire desert community. Paul was one of those rare and precious individuals who truly made a difference in the lives of those who were fortunate enough to meet him, and even some who never had that pleasure. He was a leader in the fight against AIDS, an accomplished real estate professional, a dedicated athlete and an active supporter of numerous charitable causes and service organizations.

Of course, words alone cannot describe the joy that one felt when sharing time with Paul. His warmth and encouraging nature were instantly conveyed when he would greet you with a smile and hug. A remarkably thoughtful person, Paul always seemed to make everyone feel that he was completely focused on their interests, whether in personal or business relationships.

As one of the Coachella Valley's most respected and successful Realtors, Paul Shepard achieved the kind of professional stature that many aspire to but few attain. During his career, he was selected by his peers to serve several times as Director and President of the Palm Springs Board of Realtors. In

addition, he was named "Realtor of the Year" and served also as the Director for the California Association of Realtors and the National Association of Realtors.

However, his business success was only one facet of this talented man. Paul used his abilities to help those in our community who were truly in need. He was an active member of the Palm Springs Chamber of Commerce for more than 25 years, served as a member of the City's Parks and Recreation Committee, and on the Steve Chase Humanitarian Awards Gala Committee, and was an integral part of the Steve Chase Program Committee's yearly success.

But, perhaps the one organization that was closest to his heart was the Desert AIDS Project in Palm Springs. Paul was a tireless and passionate advocate for this worthy organization that daily makes lives better for those afflicted with this most challenging disease. As a testament to his commitment to this organization, the Desert AIDS Project has established a special fund in his name. I can think of few tributes that would be more fitting.

I also want to express my condolences and recognize those that Paul loved; his life partner of 25 years, Daniel C. Hall, his mother, Jane Andrews, and sister, Jackie Cadell, and two brothers, Thom and Steve Shepard, along with his stepfather, Gordon Andrews.

Mr. Speaker, today I stand in honor of my friend Paul Shepard. The sadness I feel when I reflect on his passing is softened only by the great respect I have for the legacy he leaves after a life fully lived. I yield back the balance of my time.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 5, 2003

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained during rollcall vote 475. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONEL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 5, 2003

Mr. JEFFERSON. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, July 25, 2003, I was unavoidably detained and missed Rollcall vote No. 445, final passage vote on H.R. 2427, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to promulgate regulations for the reimportation of prescription drugs, and for other purposes. If I had voted, I would have voted "no."

AUTOMOBILE LEASE PROTECTIONS UNDER THE SOLDIERS AND SAILORS CIVIL RELIEF ACT

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 5, 2003

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker. Today I am introducing legislation that will add automobile

leases to protections of the Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act. Earlier this year, the House passed a restatement of this important legislation. I believe my legislation adds an important provision that should not be left unaddressed.

I would like to share with you a story of a young Marine reservist, currently attending Emory Law School. He was called to active duty as part of the recent mobilization and was then forced to take a leave from school. He didn't have a problem with this, it was part of his duty. However, he was concerned that he was going to suffer a financial loss because of his car lease. Being unmarried, he would not need a vehicle while deployed, but because of his lease he would still have to pay a monthly payment. His other option was to buy the car from the credit company and then turn around and sell it, even though this would cause him to lose money. Because he knew that activated reservists could terminate an apartment lease, he contacted my subcommittee wanting to know if this applied to automobiles as well. Under current law it does not.

Although our estimates are that this probably only affected a couple of hundred service members during the most recent deployment, I think that is far too many. In an age when we have come to increasingly rely on our National Guard and Reserves, for them to be susceptible to this type of penalty is absurd. When we ask our men and women of the National Guard and Reserve Components to interrupt their lives go off to war, one thing they should not have to worry about is paying an additional price relating to an auto lease. I also want to thank the Auto Alliance for its input on and openness to this bill. As both a current member of the U.S. Army Reserves and Co-Chair of the National Guard and Reserve Components Caucus, I would like to invite my colleagues to join me in support of this legislation.

CHICAGO SPORTS HALL OF
FAME—EDWARD A. SPRINKLE—
CELEBRATES HIS 80TH BIRTH-
DAY

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 5, 2003

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon to pay tribute to an outstanding member of my community, Edward A. Sprinkle, in honor of celebrating his 80th birthday on September 3, 2003.

Edward Sprinkle was born and raised in Bradshaw, Texas and attended Tuscola High School where he started his long career in one of nation's greatest pastimes, football. In 1943, Edward Sprinkle entered the United States Naval Academy; however in 1944, he was recruited by the hailed Chicago Bears.

From 1944 to 1956, Sprinkle entertained many with his talents on the football field. Sprinkle was honored with the NFL All League Award six times throughout his career, played in four pro bowls, has been honored as one of

the top 300 players in the NFL, and has also been inducted into the Chicago Sports Hall of Fame and the Helms Football Hall of Fame.

Besides his greatest achievements on the football field, Edward Sprinkle has many things to be thankful for off the field too. Edward Sprinkle was happily married to his lovely bride Marian Elizabeth Carlson for 57 years. Edward and Marian have three children, Edward Alan Sprinkle, Robert Steven Sprinkle and Susan Jane (Zima) Withers. They have five grandchildren: Steven, Alan, Jennifer, Elizabeth, and Paul, and two great-grandchildren: Steven and Jacob. Edward Sprinkle has worked for Inland Steel and owned his own company too, Ed Sprinkle Tile Company.

Mr. Speaker, I feel honored to be able to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Edward Sprinkle and his family as they celebrate Edward's 80th Birthday and continue to share in the many memories of football and wonderful family milestones.

TRANSPORTATION AND TREASURY, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2989) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation and Treasury, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes:

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2989, the Transportation-Treasury spending bill for fiscal year 2004. While there are several important provisions in this legislation that I support, the bill also includes a provision that encroaches on the jurisdiction of the Financial Services Committee and undermines the public policy goals of the landmark Gramm-Leach-Bliley financial modernization law.

Title I of Gramm-Leach-Bliley, which Congress approved in 1999, allows financial holding companies and banks to engage in a broad range of activities that are considered "financial in nature" or complementary to such financial activities. In addition, GLB grants the Federal Reserve Board and the Treasury Department the ability to identify additional activities that they deem to be financial in nature or incidental to such activities, and therefore permissible for financial holding companies and financial subsidiaries.

Over two years ago, the Federal Reserve and the Treasury, acting under their grant of authority in GLB, issued a regulatory proposal to permit banks to conduct real estate brokerage and management activities. The National Association of Realtors, in an attempt to avoid a new source of competition and preserve their monopoly in the real estate brokerage business, launched a scorched earth lobbying campaign to derail the Fed-Treasury proposal. Bowing to this pressure, the Appropriations Committee has now adopted in two succes-

sive appropriations cycles language that prohibits the Federal Reserve and the Treasury from moving forward with their proposal, thereby denying consumers greater choices in obtaining real estate brokerage services and the benefits of increased market competition.

Legislative attempts to stymie the rule-making process—particularly as part of the appropriations process—are counterproductive and undermine the future of any legislation that relies on the expert judgment of regulators for its implementation. The amendment that the Appropriations Committee has chosen to include in this bill serves only to needlessly delay innovation in the financial services industry and runs contrary to the clear congressional intent of GLB, which was to encourage free market competition and increase consumer choice.

COMMEMORATING AND CONGRATULATING THE TEAMSTERS UNION ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 5, 2003

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, it is more than appropriate on this Friday afternoon of Labor Day Week that we recognize the enduring relevance and enormous contributions of the Teamsters Union, which tomorrow—September 6, 2003—celebrates its 100th Anniversary. It is an historical imperative that every American committed to justice and fairness must acknowledge.

Allow me to congratulate General President James Hoffa and all the men and women of the Teamsters on this important occasion. For through their hard work, all of us have benefited.

The 40-hour work week that we take for granted far too often in this nation was not a gift bestowed on us by corporate chieftains. It was a hard-won victory secured by the men and women in the organized labor movement, including the Teamsters Union, who literally built this nation through their blood, sweat and tears.

Paid holidays, including the three-day Labor Day Weekend. Health and safety regulations. Employer-sponsored health care. And employer-sponsored pensions. These are just a few of the monumental benefits brought to you by the Teamsters and organized labor movement.

Ever since its founding, the Teamsters have been at the forefront of the labor movement to improve the lives of working men and women and their families. The Teamsters fought for equal rights for all workers, regardless of race, creed or gender. The Teamsters fought for African-Americans who sought jobs traditionally held by white men at the beginning of World War One. The Teamsters fought for a woman's right to equal pay before suffrage was popular.